

Bridgeport Evening Farmer

VOL. 52—NO. 149

BRIDGEPORT, CONN., FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 1916

PRICE TWO CENTS

Hundreds of Students Lost on Mined Ship in Black Sea

BAKER RUSHES MILITIA TO AID OF GENERAL FUNSTON

THREE INJURED IN PANIC AS OVERLOADED TROLLEY CAR JUMPS OFF TRACKS

Crowded So That It Swayed From Side to Side, Connecticut Co. Carrier Leaves Poor Road-Bed, Crosses Street and Crashes Into Sidewalk.

Two of Score That Jumped As Car Rushed Toward Buildings, in Hospital and Another Taken Injured to Home—Wheels Grind Curb to Bits.

The long predicted wreck on the lines of the Connecticut Co. in this city because of the fat wheeled cars and poorly jointed rails occurred about 10 minutes before 7 o'clock this morning on the East Main street line while the cars were crowded with factory employees on their way to work and resulted in the injuries of three passengers while many others were severely shaken up and bruised but did not require medical treatment.

Max Labran, 46 years old of 763 Grand street, and Oscar Necanter, 30 years of age, of East Norwalk, are at the Bridgeport hospital suffering with the injuries they received and neither is able to walk. The wrenching they suffered as a car tore across the street is believed to have strained the muscles of their backs and legs. Labran also has an abrasion of the knee and a strained wrist, while Necanter suffered abrasions all over his body. Miss Lillian Robinson, 21 years of age, of 251 Pequonnock street, received minor bruises and also suffered from shock. She was taken to her home.

Car No. 994, overloaded with passengers so that the running board was crowded, was going north on East Main street at a fast rate when, as it neared Cedar street, the testing of the car caused by the great load on the running board caused the flanges on the left wheels of the forward truck to lose their grip and the car mounted the rails and crossed diagonally over the street.

The shock movement was broken and torn as the wheels dug into it and the curbing where the front trucks stopped, was ground to dust.

In charge of the car at the time was Motorman J. Murphy, whose number is 4267, and Conductor J. Brandt, No. 4422. At the Connecticut Co. offices today it was stated that no report of the accident had been made to the claim agent but General Manager C. H. Chapman stated that he knew of the accident but was unable to state how it occurred. He said that the accident had been caused by "something," but refused to state what that "something" was.

Persons who have been familiar with traction work state that the accident is no surprise to them as it has been expected right along and the only surprise is that it had not happened sooner. The rails throughout the city are in a deplorable condition because the company is unable to get laborers to care for them at the wage it pays, and the cars rattle-bang over them as though they were ready to fall apart.

On the East Main street line, the employees of the Arms company are transported to their work and all the cars around the time the shifts go on are loaded with passengers. The congestion is so great that the running boards are crowded with persons to such an extent that the cars rock a great deal.

When the car left the track and cut across the street, all trolley traffic was held up for 15 minutes and many of the workmen were late at the shops. When the forward truck of the car struck the curbing, the height was too great for it to mount and the churning wheels ground the edge of the curbstone. The rear of the car was swinging across the tracks so that no other cars could pass.

As the passengers on the running board felt the car mount the rail, many jumped, and it was regarded as fortunate that no one was fatally injured. All the passengers were excited. It looked as though the car was destined to head straight into the buildings on the northwest corner.

Several persons came very near falling under the wheels in their mad effort to escape what appeared to be impending catastrophe.

Both Labran and Necanter were taken to the hospital in the emergency ambulance by Dr. J. W. Powers. Miss Robinson was removed to her home.

REFUGEES FROM MEXICO CITY TO GO ON U.S. SHIP

Vera Cruz, June 23.—Five first class coaches full of Americans arrived here last night. They will go aboard the battleship Nebraska today and afterward be transferred to a transport. A special coach also arrived with the American employees of the Agula Oil Company. The refugees report that their trip down was uneventful.

HALF HOLIDAY FOR CLERKS IS NOT APPROVED

Effort For General Saturday Afternoon Off Program, Isn't Successful.

The retail clerks of Bridgeport will not get a half holiday during the summer months. This decision was the result of a meeting of Main street merchants and others held yesterday under the auspices of the Bridgeport Business Men's association. The consensus of the meeting was that the customary summer hours should be retained from July 4 to Labor Day. Stores therefore, will close during this period at 5 o'clock every night except Saturday when they will remain open until 9 o'clock.

The decision of the business men will be placed before the chamber of commerce today, when ratification will be asked and a circular letter distributed among the merchants of the city advocating that all comply with the majority decision.

County Commissioners Expect \$40,000 Deficit

When a meeting of the county senators and representatives is held in this city June 29, it is expected that the county commissioners will ask for \$41,190 to meet the difference between estimated receipts and expenses for the fiscal year, commencing next October.

It is figured the receipts will be \$112,840, including \$47,800 from the sale of liquor licenses. The total expenses are estimated at \$153,830. These include \$51,800 and for the county falls in this city and Danbury as well as \$102,030 for the running expenses of the new courthouse.

The resolution adopted by the Fairfield County Bar favoring the purchase of the property adjoining the courthouse on the west, will probably be discussed at the meeting. It is said that some of the county commissioners do not favor the purchase.

Humane Society Wants Children Committed

Steve, aged 11, and Elizabeth Bogdan, aged 7, are dependent and neglected according to the petition filed in the probate court by agents of the Connecticut Humane society. Judge Miller on Monday at 10 o'clock will hear an application to have the children committed to the county home. Their father, Joseph, is dead, their mother, Elizabeth, is unable to care for them. Judge Miller will also pass on the case of Adelaide Wilson, aged 4. Her father, Jay, deserted her mother, Henrietta. The latter is now an inmate of Lakeview home and unable to care for her child.

WARREN ARRESTED ON GIRLS' CHARGE

Harry Warren of 299 East avenue, Remington City, was arrested after noon on the complaint of Mary Dunn, of 309 East avenue and Doris Priestley, of 279 East avenue.

THE WEATHER Forecast: Fair tonight, Saturday increasing cloudiness and warmer.

RICH BANKER PLAINTIFF IN SLANDER SUIT

Andrew Bandre Brings Action For \$3,000 Damages Against Merchant.

ACCUSES LATTER OF INJURING REPUTATION Dispute Over Check Precipitates Legal Action Involving Prominent Residents.

Alleged slanderous statements aimed at Andrew Bandre, the wealthy banker of the West End, prominent faraternally and involving members of the Rakoczy Hungarian Sick Benefit society as well as an alderman in the district has caused suit for \$3,000 damages to be instituted in the superior court.

Attachments were levied yesterday upon property of John Stefanko, a merchant living at 315 Pine street, who is named as defendant in the suit. That an additional suit against Stefanko may also be brought by Alderman John Renchy of 572 Boswick avenue, is freely predicted today as a result of the widespread comment that remarks alleged to have been made by Stefanko are said to have created in Hungarian society.

In the complaint it is specifically alleged that Stefanko proclaimed openly in front of the banker's office that the president of the Rakoczy society "was a thief and a check forger."

Behind the legal cloak thrown over the affair it is related that Bandre for many years has been a leading social and financial spirit of the West End. His trade and fraternal methods have been business-like and strict, in accord with the usual business conventions. Not a whisper of scandal has attached to his conduct.

Mr. Bandre in detailing the circumstances of the affair asserts that Stefanko, a prominent member of the Rakoczy society, became pressed for money. He appealed to Alderman Renchy for assistance. Renchy, who is a prominent cafe proprietor and a director in the West End Coal Co., made out a check payable to Stefanko, which the latter took to the banker's office to cash. The banker asserts that this check was endorsed by himself as president of the society to give additional prestige to Stefanko but that it was in no way changed.

Stefanko cashed the check. It is claimed, but later, when asked to pay the debt, asserted that the face of the check had been raised to an amount larger than he had drawn. He refused to make payment and is said to have at that time endeavored to deal. Later he is said to have fully vindicated Alderman Renchy and to have apologized for statements he had made.

The accusations against the banker followed closely and are said to have been so widely made that Bandre has instituted the slander suit for his own defense. Through Attorney Ernest Berger, member of the firm of Stebbins & Berger, of the First-Bridgeport National bank building, Sheriff W. G. Stiegler served the writs of attachment in the suit returnable during the September term of the superior court.

Housatonic River Bridge Estimated To Cost Quarter Million

State Highway Commissioner Benson visited the county commissioners today to show them plans for the new bridge over the Housatonic river between Shelton and Derby. The bridge will cost about \$250,000 and will be a handsome structure.

According to a law passed at the last session of the general assembly the state will pay one-third of the expense, one-third will be divided between Fairfield and New Haven counties and the Connecticut Co. will pay the remaining third. It has been agreed that the town of Huntington, which included Shelton, and the city of Derby shall pay \$17,000 each for an extra wide sidewalk across the bridge. This walk extends a long distance and is the principal highway between Derby and Shelton. It is expected that work on the bridge will be started as soon as plans for the bridge have been shown to the New Haven commissioners.

ORTON ARRESTED FOR TRAFFIC VIOLATION

E. J. Orton, a real estate dealer with an office in the Meigs building, was arrested this afternoon by Lieut. Charles Wheeler and Policeman Joseph Kasperack for parking his car on Fairfield avenue.

HEAVY LOSS OF LIFE AS SHIP SINKS

Twenty-Eight Bodies Washed Ashore After Steamer Mercury is Terpedoed In Black Sea—800 on Board Including Many College Students on Vacations.

Bow Blown Off, Vessel Goes Down in Five Minutes—Rough Sea Prevents Rescue of Any Except Strongest Swimmers—Struck Mine 3 Miles From Odessa

Petrograd, June 23.—The loss of life on the steamer Mercury, which was sunk by a mine in the Black Sea, undoubtedly has been large, from reports received in regard to the disaster.

The Mercury was traveling from Odessa to Kherzon, with 800 passengers, including a large number of college students who were bound for their homes for the summer vacation. The vessel struck the mine three miles from Odessa and two miles off shore in a rough sea. The bow was blown off and the ship sank in five minutes.

Only two lifeboats were launched and both, laden with passengers, were overturned. Thirteen boats which were sent to the rescue were unable to approach the scene owing to the heavy sea but succeeded in rescuing passengers who were strong swimmers and who floated to them on fragments of wreckage.

Twenty-eight bodies have been washed ashore. The disaster was witnessed by the captain of a Russian steamer who, however, did not attempt to go to the rescue because he believed the ship had been torpedoed and that his own vessel would suffer the same fate.

GERMANS OPEN NEW ATTACK IN VERDUN DISTRICT

Paris, June 23.—The Germans have launched a heavy attack in the Champagne district. Three violent assaults on the French trenches in the region of Mont Tatu were repulsed last night after severe fighting with grenades and bayonets, according to an official statement issued by the war office today.

East of the Meuse, in the Verdun sector, the Germans again attacked Hill No. 204 and there was lively infantry fighting near Dead Man Hill. There was heavy artillery fire all night in this sector. It was particularly violent east of the Meuse around the Vaux front.

The text of the communication follows: "In Belgium a destructive fire of our batteries demolished certain organizations of the enemy in the sand dunes."

"In the Champagne district yesterday evening following the bombardment of our positions the Germans delivered three attacks along a front of about 1,200 yards. Each one of these attacks was either checked by our curtain of fire or repulsed with hand grenades. On the left bank of the river Meuse the Germans have renewed their efforts in the region of Hill 304. Two attacks with hand grenades were checked by fire of our machine guns."

"On the right bank of the river there was considerable activity on the part of the artillery along our entire front from the Meuse as far as Moulanville."

GERMAN SUBMARINE AS BEARER OF NOTE IS VIEWED ASKANCE

Madrid, June 23.—Great interest and curiosity is manifested over the visit of the German submarine to Cartagena bearing a letter to King Alfonso from the German Emperor.

El Liberal is skeptical concerning the explanation that the letter is merely one of thanks for the treatment shown the Germans interned from the Kamerun.

The paper points out the peculiarity of the choice of a submarine to carry imperial documents and says that the commander of the undersea craft commander (Continued on Page 7.)

MASSACHUSETTS AUTOIST ADMITS CAR STRUCK HALL

Max Wiener of Springfield Drove Auto That Caused Fatality.

TRACE HIM THROUGH HIS LICENSE MARKER

Will Be Brought to Bridgeport to Testify Before Coroner.

Admitting, when confronted by the police, that his car was the machine that struck Charles W. Hall at Pembroke and Stratford avenues on the night of Saturday, June 3, causing injuries which resulted in his death the following morning, Max Wiener of Springfield, Mass., was placed under arrest in that city this morning and the three weeks' search of the Bridgeport authorities for the person whose car struck Hall and then drove away has ended.

Wiener will be brought to this city to testify at the coroner's inquest and if he is held, he will be arraigned in the city court. If he is not willing to come to this city voluntarily, extradition papers will be procured and he will be forced to come back to Bridgeport, but the authorities do not believe he will fight extradition inasmuch as he had admitted that his car struck Hall.

Hall was picked up in the roadway in Stratford avenue at Pembroke street late June 3 after he had been struck by an automobile, while crossing the street. The driver of the machine stopped the car and looked at the injured man, but offered no assistance and getting into the machine, put on speed and drove away. Witnesses managed to get the registration number, 30,219, before the car disappeared.

Taken to the hospital, Hall, who is the brother of Dog Warden George Hall, did not regain consciousness and died the next morning. Search was immediately prosecuted for the driver of the car and A. J. Costello of Rockville, Conn., was brought to this city. His car bears the Connecticut license 30,219. He proved to the satisfaction of Coroner Phelan that he was not the man who was allowed to go.

The coroner and the detective department, working in conjunction, decided to have the Massachusetts authorities question the owner of the car bearing the Hay State license, No. 30,219. This morning Lieutenant of Detectives Edward Cronan, received news from the Springfield authorities that Wiener's car bore that license and when questioned admitted that his car had struck a man that night in this city.

SCOUTS REPORT CARRANZA FORCE NEAR COLUMBUS

Customs Officials of De Facto to Government Disappear Towards South.

Columbus, N. M., June 23.—American scouting patrols reported to militia headquarters today that a small detail of Carranza troops was encamped about 20 miles south of Columbus. Mexican customs officials at the "border gate" three miles south packed their household goods on the backs of burros today and disappeared on the hills in the direction of Juarez. San L. Sandoval, a former Carranza official at Palomas, eight miles over the border, is being held by military authority here pending an investigation of alleged violation of the neutrality laws of the United States.

FINGER IS CRUSHED

When his hand was caught in a press at the plant of the Bridgeport Metal Goods Co., this morning, Harry Pierce's little finger on his left hand was crushed. The emergency ambulance was summoned and he was taken to the private hospital of the Manufacturers' Liability Insurance corporation.

PERSONAL MENTION

Mrs. Andrew Halpin of Bethel and Miss Mary O'Brien of Danbury are visiting Mrs. M. J. Flanagan of 41 Pacific street.

Secretary of War Directs Department Commanders Not to Await Mobilization of State Troops But to Forward Units to the Border As Soon As They Are Organized—Many Connecticut Troops Are Ready.

FUNSTON TO INDICATE WHERE HE WANTS MILITIAMEN TO BE LOCATED

Commanders of Various Departments Will Take Charge of All Transportation Arrangements Promptly on Notification From Funston of Destination of Their Militiamen—Bridgeport Organizations Not Affected.

Washington, June 23.—Secretary Baker today issued orders to all department commanders to send to the Mexican border all militia available immediately upon their organization without waiting completion of the mobilization of their separate states.

The commanders were requested to notify General Funston when each regiment, troop, battery or other unit completes muster. General Funston will indicate where he wishes the forces sent in each instance, and the departmental commander, without further instructions from Washington, will arrange transportation and send them forward.

The organizations of Connecticut National Guard who by the order today of Secretary of War Baker are called to the colors without waiting for the proposed state mobilization are: First Infantry, headquarters Hartford, with companies in Bristol, New Britain and other nearby towns.

Second infantry, headquarters New Haven, with companies at Waterbury, Meriden, Wallingford and other nearby towns.

Fifth militia cavalry, Troop A, New Haven; Troop B, Hartford.

Sanitary Troops: First Connecticut Field Hospital Company, New Haven; First Connecticut Ambulance Company, Hartford.

Signal Troops: First Connecticut Field Company, Hartford. Tenth Militia Field Artillery, Batteries A, B, and C, New Haven; Battery E, Branford, and Batteries D, and F, Stamford.

All the officers of the ordnance and quartermaster's departments are called to the colors to aid in the mobilization and recruiting.

All the officers of the Medical Corps are called except those serving with the Connecticut Coast Artillery organizations.

The new order will not affect the Bridgeport companies now on duty at Fort H. G. Wright. There is a possibility that they may be held for garrison duty.

WHITE HOUSE CONSIDERS EARLY REPORTS ON BATTLE AT CARRAZAL

Washington, June 23.—A preliminary report from General Pershing on the Carrizal fight, based on stories told by stragglers reaching the headquarters of the American expedition and on Mexican rumors, was taken to the White House early today by Secretary Baker.

The secretary said General Pershing himself did not regard the report as an official statement of what had happened. The preliminary report will not be made public. Officials are greatly worried over the delay in getting news from the serving officers of the little 10th cavalry detachment which engaged a superior force of Mexicans. Captain Charles T. Boyd, Lieutenant Henry R. Adair and 10 men are said to have been killed. Of the remaining 47 only a few stragglers reached General Pershing's headquarters yesterday.

Secretary Baker denied rumors of plans for an immediate call for volunteers to add to the regular and national guard forces. He also said there had been no additional orders over night for troop movements.

Washington Officials Hope persisted among officials here today that war against Mexico would not become necessary. Despatches from Mexico City indicated that leaders in the Carranza government may show a similar attitude and will seek to avert the threatened break.

The outlook was far from bright, however, and orders had been issued for transportation of 10,000 national guardsmen to the border from central and western states as soon as they are called for service. Secretary Baker called at the White House early today for a conference with the President.

He said he had no reports from General Pershing regarding the Carrizal engagement.

On leaving the White House Mr. Baker said that there was no change in the administration policy and that information from General Pershing still was wanted. He also said no new orders to regulars or militia had gone out.

Two Officers Seized Tension was not lessened by an official report that the Carranza government had ordered the arrest of two American officers.

(Continued on Page 7.)